

TeleAudiology: Taking Diagnostics to the Infant

Steve Peterson, Tom Froelich and Neil Scharpe provided participants of the national Early Hearing Detection and Intervention conference in Chicago with a live demonstration of distance audiology diagnostics.

The concept behind the tele audiology concept is that the pediatric audiologist remains in their office and the parent and infant are in a distant location closer to their home. In this scenario it was the professional hub site that was moved.



The demonstration involved an MSU student being connected to a diagnostic instrument in Minot while Tom Froelich performed the testing from Chicago. The trio followed the live demonstration with a more detail presentation describing the TeleAudiology concept. NDCPD is under contract to HRSA to complete a Management Protocol, a Technical Protocol and a Tool Kit that can be used to replicate the demonstration across the country bringing audiology diagnostic to infants 0-6 months old. Currently it is necessary for the parent and infant to travel to the office of a pediatric audiologist to have this testing done. This can involve hundreds of miles of travel and time away from work and other family responsibilities.

TeleAudiology can be used to bridge not only distance but cultural barriers in that the parent and child go to a location where a paraprofessional that they are familiar with is the person with who they have direct contact. It is anticipated that with the dissemination of the protocols in the fall of 2010 many more audiologists will consider using the internet to perform diagnostics.

April is Autism Awareness Month

Did you know:

- April is Autism Awareness Month.
- Autism is generally used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders.
- Autism is more common than pediatric cancer, diabetes, and AIDS combined.
- Autism occurs in all racial, ethnic, and social groups.
- New studies show the prevalence rate now at 1 in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism, and 1 in every 70 boys are diagnosed with autism. Autism is four times more likely in boys than girls.
- Autism is a life-long disorder, currently there is no "cure." Early intervention increases the likelihood of success throughout the lifespan.



Please visit the Great Plains Autism Spectrum Disorders Treatment Programs (GPAST) website at <http://ndcpd.org/proj/autism/information.shtml> to see informational brochures, referral sheets, and all of the NDCPD Fact Sheets for Autism, including 'Red Flags' and myths about autism.